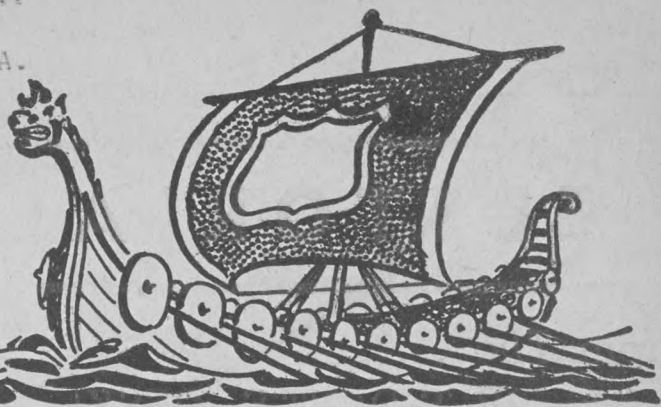




Scandinavian Centre News

PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



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Vol. 7, No. 7

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JULY, 1966

PAGES

Charter Flights Success

Ladies Committee Holds Meeting

Mrs. Ragna Sivertsen as the Director for the Ladies held a meeting at her home recently with the ladies from the five groups.

A committee was formed and the following ladies were present: From the Danish group: Mrs. Vera Nielsen and Mrs. Inge Godbersen, from the Finnish: Mrs. Rama and Mrs. Koi-vieneva, from the Icelandic: Mrs. Margaret Cameron and Mrs. Ruth McNaughten, Norwegian group: Mrs. Maisie Amdam and Ida Paulsen and from the Swedish group: Mrs. Deveda Ogren.

Election took place Mrs. Ruth McNaughton was elected Chairman, Mrs. Vera Nielsen, Vice Chairman and Mrs. Maisie Amdam Secretary.

Mrs. Sivertsen suggested we would hold the next meeting at the Scandinavian Centre the same evening as the Directors Board Meeting and so we met on Tuesday, June 14th. Mr. Verner Larsen, Director for Exhibition Booth, came in to talk to us and asked for suggestions, as he showed us the sketch of the new Booth.

Lots of good ideas came up and let us just hope, that it is not just a "Dream Booth".

Next meeting is set for July 5th at Mrs. Sivertsen's home and Mr. Larsen will attend this meeting with the final news of the booth.

Appeal To Shareholders To Do Their Share

Perhaps you have already read the Bulletin Board on the last page? If not, please do so before you read further.

Now you know, that all five Lodges and Societies, their Executives, your board of Directors, your Manager, everyone is bending over backwards to do something for you and the Centre in general.

Dear Friends, I believe it is time we all pitch in and do our best — I feel like quoting Churchill, when he said: **Never** has so much been done — **by so few** — for so many, it can be said about the Centre as well.

Edmontonians by the tens of thousands are taking advantage of our beautiful Centre, What about ourselves?

Take our Anniversary Dinner on June 18th, 35-40 Tickets sold, results — cancellation of the Event — lost revenue and expenses incurred, amounting to several hundred dollars; but most of all an opportunity to get together enjoy ourselves and rejoice over our accomplishment, gone with the wind.

However, let us all get the Klondike Fever as true Edmontonians, gather our friends and hail for the Centre any night or every night, during Klondike Week.

See you there. Tom

WARNING . . . Re: Charter Flights!

There has been some confusion in the minds of Scandinavians with regard to sponsorship of chartered flights to Scandinavia:

In the past, there have been some flights sponsored under the name of NORMANNS - FORBUNDET; THE SCANDINAVIAN HOUR CLUB and the SCANDINAVIAN CLUB. Let it be known that none of these three names has anything to do with THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION LTD. commonly known as THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE.

Let it be further known that no passenger on a Scandinavian Centre flight has ever lost his (or her) deposit.

The only bonafide chartered flights of the Scandinavian Centre for the summer of 1966 are:

Flight No. 16 —

June 30th-August 31st

Edmonton to Copenhagen \$377.

Flight No. 17 —

July 7th - August 5th

Edmonton to Copenhagen \$377.

(via WARDAIR Jet)

If you are in doubt about any chartered flights to Scandinavia write or phone —

Mrs. Vera Nielsen, Director of Copenhagen Flights, 10029 - 85 Avenue, Edmonton, Phone: 439-506.

S.A.S. Starts DC-8 Service To Moscow

Scandinavian Airlines System started through DC-8 jet service between New York and Moscow via Scandinavia on May 7th, in order to accommodate increased demands for summer service between the two world capitals.

The first of the weekly flights in the 138-passenger Royal Viking jets left Kennedy Airport at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, and arrived at Sheremetyevo Airport at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, after stops in Copenhagen and Stockholm. On the return journey, the flight left Moscow at 4:05 p.m. on Sunday, May 8, and arrived in New York at 9:30 p.m. the same day.

David Legate of the Montreal Star and David Bassett of CFCF-Radio and TV of Montreal were onboard the inaugural flight carrying a party of Canadian and American inaugural guests. Their five-day stay in Moscow was devoted to sampling and reporting on the lively arts in the Soviet capital.

A monument of Cathinka Guldberg, the first trained nursing sister in Norway, was recently unveiled at Diakonissesykehuset, Oslo. The ceremony was attended by King Olav, Bishop Johs Smemo of Oslo Bishopric, and Mayor Brynjulf Bull.

Solglyt Lodge Hosts Fourth District 32 Biennial Convention June 9, 10, 11

Solglyt Lodge hosted the Fourth District 32 Biennial Convention on June 9-10-11 at the Scandinavian Centre. There were 18 Lodges represented. 'Our Heritage' was the theme for the convention which began Thursday evening, with registration and a social. Entertainment was provided by the Junior Folk Dancers under the direction of Clara Lineham and, a number of songs sung by Irene Hovde accompanied by Carl Elgstrand on the accordion and Hazel Lubbers at the piano. Coffee was served by the ladies of Solglyt Lodge.

Friday morning a hearty 'Eye Opener Breakfast' courtesy of the city was enjoyed by many at the Bonaventure Motor Hotel. Chairman Mr. Ed Ness introduced the speakers. The welcome message was given by Deputy Mayor, Dr. A. C. McGugan and Hon. L. C. Halmrast. Response by Mr. J. Runsvold, past president of the Fourth District. Others seated at the table were Mr. McBain, past president of the Chamber of Commerce; Mr. A. Tvete, Supreme Lodge President; Mr. Rosenberg; Mr. Ramsing; Mr. E. Halberg and Mr. K. Svidal. Beautiful soft music was supplied by Mr. Olaf Sveen on his accordion. Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Runsvold and Mr. Tvete were each presented with a klondike table lighter.

Delegates and visitors then proceeded to the Centre to begin the days business sessions. The formal opening address was given by Past President District 4, Mr. J. D. Runsvold. Solglyt Drill team made the presentation of flags and also presented each delegate with a souvenir desk set. Following the meeting visitors and delegates took a city tour by bus and enjoyed lunch at Molson's Edmonton House. The business sessions reconvened at 2 p.m. Valhalla Lodge, Calgary hosted the afternoon coffee hour. A Klondike Party and Dance was attended by 200 guests in the evening. Mr. Joe Lineham was Master of Ceremonies. The Missoula Dancers — Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Sunde, Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Stoverud, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Moy, and Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Roe dressed in Norwegian costumes performed authentic Norwegian dances. Crystal Fleuty with her cast of dancers and Klondike troupe presented 'Klondike Review'. Among the cast were a few Lodge

members. 'Diamond Lil' was played by Lilian Ness. Ed Ness the debonair gentleman. The bar tender was Alvin Searl, Knut Svidal was the reader, others were Mina McDonald Peter Hansen, Walter Meyer and Melvin Stensby. Games of chance were played and the lucky lady who won a gift was Bertha Phillips from Great Falls, Montana. The lucky gent was Angus MacDonald. Carl Elgstrand and his orchestra provided dance music until 12:30 when a Klondike Breakfast was served. Catering Bonaventure. Business sessions resumed Saturday morning and initiation of 27 candidates was conducted by Mr. A. Tvete, Supreme Lodge President assisted by the Drill team. The morning coffee hour was hosted by Hamar Lodge, Claresholm.

The convention terminated in the evening with a banquet tendered by the Government of Alberta, attended by 250 guests. Seated at the head table were His Honor, J. Grant McEwan, Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta; Hon. L. C. Halmrast, Minister of Public Welfare and Mrs. Halmrast; Deputy Mayor, Dr. A. C. McGugan; Rev. J. P. Jorgenson; Mr. A. Johannessen, Norwegian Consul and Mrs. Johannessen; Mr. A. Tvete, Supreme Lodge President and Mrs. Tvete; Mr. John Hagen, American Consul; Mr. J. Runsvold, past president district 4; Mr. H. Rosenberg, Supreme Director and Mrs. Rosenberg; Mr. E. Halberg, President of Solglyt Lodge and Mrs. Halberg; Mr. K. Svidal, past Vice-President, District 4 and Mrs. Svidal; Mr. H. Ramsing, President of Scandinavian Centre and Mrs. Ramsing. The jovial Chairman, Mr. J. Runsvold introduced the guests and speakers. Messages were given by His Honor, J. Grant McEwan; Hon. L. C. Halmrast and Mr. Tvete. Soloist was Crystal MacDonald Fleuty. Mr. E. Halberg presented Mr. Tvete, Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Runsvold with souvenir Klondike canes and, an inscribed silver tray to Mr. E. Ness.

The installation of Fourth District Officers was conducted by Mr. Rosenberg, following the banquet and an exhibition drill performed by the Drill team under the direction of Clara Lineham. Mr. Knut Svidal was installed as the new President of the Fourth District for a term of 4 years. A dance concluded the Fourth District convention activities.

Thank You . . .

I wish to express sincere appreciation to my cast of "The Shooting of Dan McGrew" production recently staged for the 4th District Sons of Norway Convention. I thoroughly enjoyed directing this show, and the wholehearted co-operation received from all taking part, namely: Ed and Lil Ness, Knud Svidal, Carl

Elgstrand, Peter Hanson, Walter Myers, Melvin Stensby, Angus McDonald, Al Searle, Mina McDonald, Karen Barber, Sue Braun, Marlyn Gardner, and the orchestra of Alsie Myhre, Vic Lillo and Jim McDonald.

Thanks to you all,
Crystal McDonald Fleuty

This year we were successful in sending three flights — one to Oslo, Norway, with the P.W.A. and two to Copenhagen, Denmark with WARDAIR'S JET. 220 passengers for Copenhagen. The Oslo Flight left Edmonton, May 20th to return June 17th. The first for Copenhagen left June 30th and the second July 7th.

Vera Nielsen, Flight Director for Copenhagen Flights, invited the passengers and their friends to a social evening at the Scandinavian Centre on June 15th.

Vera had decorated the Viking Room with beautiful posters from all the Scandinavian Countries. We were happy to see so many came from out of town, approximately 150 people in all. Vera started out with a "Loud Hello" to all and bid them welcome and a happy journey to all passengers. Then she introduced the president for the Scandinavian Centre Mr. Helge Ramsing, who wished everybody a happy holiday and brought a wish, that people would continue to book for Charter Flights with the Scandinavian Centre. Mr. Hank Emson from WARDAIR Canada Ltd., was introduced, he then told the history of Wardair and their Chartered Flights in such a charming way, that everybody enjoyed listening to him, he also gave two rules for the men, "No tipping and No pinching the Stewardesses" He then went on to tell the passengers, what they must do and not do, what to carry and not to carry. A little joke about the womens handbags, that by the way, don't have to be included in the 45 lbs. After this, there was a question period and then Mr. Emson showed a beautiful film. The pictures being so real, that some cried, got tears in their eyes and lumps in their throat for wanting to be there. Pictures from all the Scandinavian Countries and many others, where Wardair serve with Charter Flights. Mr. Ramsing thanked Mr. Emson for coming and furnishing us all with so much information.

Lunch was then served, Flight Bags given out and all had enjoyed themselves and are now ready to leave on their trip to Scandinavian Countries and elsewhere in Europe.

Happy Holiday to all —

Junior Folk Dancers Guests At Devon

The Junior Folk Dancers and Solglyt Drill team were invited to Devon, on the 20 of May to perform at a party for Miss Eleanor Laidlo. Eleanor was being honored by the citizens of Devon for having won a trip to Norway. The trip was a prize given for the best written essay on 'Girl Guides'. The Junior Folk Dancers performed the 'Song and Dance' numbers and the 'Rine-lander'. The Drill team gave a performance and were called back for an encore. Lunch was served by the Girl Guides Association.

EDITORIAL

From The . . . PRESIDENT'S DESK!

By HELGE RAMSING

"PLEASE DON'T LET US DOWN . . ."

Two years have passed since the Scandinavian Centre opened. A short time, and still long enough to forget and therefore, take things for granted which a few years ago, we were only hoping for.

Many words of praise have been spoken about our Centre. The people, who by their unselfish work have made this dream come true and the shareholders who have shown their faith in this undertaking, have the right to be proud of their efforts which, we all realize, were not made in vain.

Up until now the Centre has not been merely a symbol of Scandinavian Co-operation but also in its true sense, a gathering place for the Scandinavian people in our community. A place where one can enjoy a happy time with friendly people. It is our sincere hope that within the framework of our Centre the Scandinavian spirit and culture will thrive and survive for many generations and that we will thereby have the opportunity to contribute our share in building the Canadian nation and identity.

The Centre, as it is today, should only be a beginning. We are all still dreaming of better things to come but we do realize that dreaming alone is not enough. Therefore, when our Directors, as chairmen of the various Committees, are asking for volunteers, whether it be the Klondike booth, the Exhibition Parade Float or any other project connected with the Centre, please give them a little of your time and talent. Up until now, we have been fortunate enough to have a "hard core" of volunteers on which we could always depend. The time has come when we could show our appreciation by giving a helping hand whenever it is needed. It is true that most of us have a full timetable and many of our shareholders are already devoting their time to other worthwhile community projects, but still, depending on the old saying, "The wheel that squeaks gets the grease", we ask you — don't let us down!

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT

Here is a date to keep in mind the 4th of September, the ladies of the Scandinavian Centre Auxiliary have planned for a Coffee Party on that date. It will be the beginning of the fall socials.

Mr. and Mrs. Sig. Sorenson and Sharon enjoyed two weeks of holidays in Norway in June. Mr. Sorenson won this trip for his work on flights.

Fishing is good these days, just ask Kevin Larson. He went fishing with Dad at Devils Lake recently and caught himself his first two fish with his birthday present, a fishing rod. Kevin just turned five on the 15 of June.

Mrs. Ragna Sivertsen attended the dance festival of the Allied Arts Council held in Calgary recently to see her granddaughter perform there.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Tangen and Mr. and Mrs. G. Mikkelson of Calgary were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Searl in June.

Miss Irene Lagergren spent an enjoyable but brief holiday at Heinsburg, Alta. visiting friends and relatives on the farm there in May.

Clara Modin, Passes Away June 8th

On June 8, 1966 death claimed another member of Lodge Skandia No. 549. Clara Modin, aged 68 of 10507 79 Avenue is survived by her husband, Axel Modin and two brothers, Emil Sandstrom of Calgary and Percy Sandstrom of Calmar and two sisters, Mrs. A. (Julia) Engberg and Mrs. E. (Agnes) Dixon, both of Calmar.

Funeral Service was held in Calmar United Church with Dr. G. Hutchinson officiating. Interment was in Calmar Cemetery.

Our sympathy is extended to her husband, brothers and sisters.

Vasa Lodge Skandia Holds Meeting

The regular meeting of Lodge Skandia No. 549 was held at Vasa Inn, Pigeon Lake on June 4th. Visitors welcomed to the meeting were District Master, Floyd Modin, Albin Markstead and Elva Markstead, all of Buford Lodge. Members reported sick were Clara Modin and Mons Eliasson, both confined at home.

Otto Von Rosen reported progress on the plans for the picnic at Elk Island Park, that available talent was being investigated.

The recommendation presented in writing by the Centennial Committee was tabled and referred to the Past Presidents' Club for consideration.

Carol Engvall was elected to take the office of Assistant Secretary for the remainder of the term, taking the place of Martha Kay who advanced to the post of Secretary. Vi Watson accepted the post of Children's Leader if she could get an assistant to instruct in Swedish culture. The entertainment committee elected were Audry Eliasson, Otto and Delores Von Rosen and Emil and Mildred Wiess.

In response to a letter from District Secretary Bert Johnson regarding the Vasa Workshop to be held at Vasa Park on July 1st and 2nd, the following members volunteered to work: Magnus and Betty Pearson, Bert Watson, Gertrude Holmgren and Audry Eliasson.

The Lunch Committee served lunch and dancing followed to the Checkmates Orchestra. The next meeting will be held at Vasa Park on July 2nd. It will be followed by a Klondike dance and festival.

Verna Kvarnberg, Lionel Larson Married June 14th

The marriage of Miss Verna Kvarnberg, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kvarnberg of Buford, Alberta to Mr. Lionel Larson was solemnized on June 14th, 1966 at Augustana Lutheran Church with Pastor Leon Linquist officiating.

The bride wore a cocktail length dress of white lace over pink and her head was adorned with the Vasa bridal crown which held in place a short veil. She carried a bouquet of sweetheart pink roses and white carnations. Her bridesmaid was Miss Lilius Ferguson, and Mr. Al Borg acted as best man. The ushers were Bob Buchanan, Glen Kvarnberg and Kirk Larson.

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NEWS

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10242 - 115 Street Ph. 488-5707

Buford Lodge 577 Initiates 3 Members

Three new members were initiated into the Lodge on May 26, bringing the total membership up to 101. The newest members are as follows: Nick and Gladys Kuzyk and Myron Mishio.

Get well wishes go out to Andrew Pearson who is reported ill.

Our sympathy goes out to Anna Wold and Gunhild Ladoucer on the death of their father Victor Hanson. Mr. Hanson was a long time resident of the Breton District. Two weeks before his passing he left his home and flew to Sweden for an extended holiday.

May we also extend our sympathy to the Modin and Engberg families on the passing of a dear relative, Mrs. Clara Modin, wife of Axel Modin, Edmonton.

Members are urged to leave their children's names with the secretary if they wish to attend Children's Week at Vasa Park.

A volunteer Committee, Bob Pearson, Floyd Modin and Anthony Lefsrud are in charge of plans for a social evening at Willow Creek Community Hall on June 24. This date was set for presenting Alda J. Markstedt with the Vasa Order Scholarship which she had won in a recent essay contest sponsored by the Grand Lodge of America. Alda's topic was "Our Lodge".

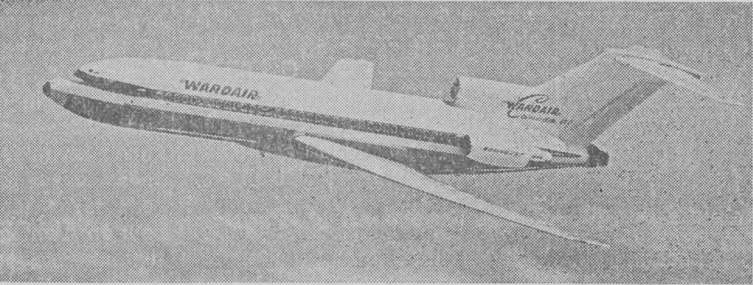
Brother Modin urged the members to attend Vasa Workshop on July 1st and 2nd at Pigeon Lake.

The Kvarnberg family is happy to have a sister, Mrs. Anna Lewis of Sacramento, California visiting for a few weeks.

Miss Verna Kvarnberg was honored at a shower held for her recently at Willow Creek Community Hall. Many ladies of the district were present, bringing their gifts and good wishes for the bride to be.

The Erickson family had a gay reunion on Sunday when relatives from as far away as the west coast attended.

FALL JET SPECIAL



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NAME AGE

ADDRESS PHONE

Name of each accompanying Dependent (Date of Birth if under 12) Relationship

I enclose \$ to be credited to my account, the Balance of \$ to be paid in full by August 1st, 1966.

I am a member in good standing of the Scandinavian Centre Co-operative.

DATE SIGNATURE

FINNISH SOCIETY

FINNISH
FOOTNOTES

Welcome home greetings to Mr. and Mrs. T. Leino and Tina, Mr. and Mrs. Arvi Karvonen, Mr. V. Rastas, Miss I. Rastas and Mr. and Mrs. L. Vagovics who have returned from holidays in Europe.

Miss Gisela Sturmer was married to Mr. Esko Salo on May 21st at Augustana Lutheran Church. Best wishes to the couple who will make their home in Edmonton.

Congratulations are in order to Miss Ulla Vesalainen who received her Bachelor of Arts degree at the spring convocation ceremonies of the University of Alberta on May 31st. An open house was held in her honor during the week. Among the guests was Miss Vesalainen's aunt Mrs. Sylvi Kuivakangas from Vancouver, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Koivuneva motor-ed to Vancouver, B.C. recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Onni Virtanen and their grandson Ricky Levoir had a very enjoyable holiday at Moose Lake recently. They reported that fishing was good.

Mrs. Helmi Tuominen of Turku, Finland is visiting her daughter Mrs. Anja Leino and family in Edmonton. Mrs. Tuominen also has two other daughters in Canada, Mrs. P. Hahmo of Calgary, Alta. and Mrs. L. Majamaa of Port Alberni, B.C. It is hoped that Mrs. Tuominen's holiday here is an enjoyable one.

Recent visitor to Edmonton is Mr. George Jaakkola's sister Martta Jaakkola from Helsinki, Finland. Very enjoyable stay in Canada to Miss Jaakkola who arrived on June 20th.

Miss Raija Heinonen who went to Finland recently sends her best regards to everyone from Iisalmi.

Mrs. Mimmi Karhinen is presently visiting her daughter in Victoria, B.C.

Speedy recovery to Mr. Heimo Ramo who was in hospital recently.

Birthday greetings to the following members of Finnish Society whose birthdays are during July: Maria Utunen, Maria Luoma, Impi Honka, Pirkko Karvonen, Esther Kit, Tyyne Liimatainen and a Happy Birthday to all who celebrate during July.

Finnish Society wishes Bon Voyage to all who are leaving on the Scandinavian Flight No. 16 at the end of June. An especially happy journey to all who will visit Finland.

VASA
GLIMPSSES

PICNIC AT VASA PARK — The Sports Club, headed by Mrs. Evelyn Modin, sponsored a picnic at Vasa Park on Sunday, June 11th. The event was on a Klondike theme. The tug-o-war was won by the Edmonton team against Buford. The draw for the box of fire-works was won by Doles Von Rosen. A cold plate dinner was served. A sincere thanks is extended to all who donated or helped to make the occasion a success.

Happy holiday wishes are extended to Oscar and Hilda Hanson of Skandia and Claire and Avis Pearson and Ray Pearson of Buford Lodge who are visiting Sweden this summer.

Miss Verna Kvarnberg attended a Desk and Derrick regional meeting held in Calgary recently.

Mrs. Svea Erickson had a guest recently, Mrs. B. Christianson of Vancouver.

Andy and Ivy Ogren spent a week on a motoring holiday in the interior of British Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. Magnus Pearson spent a short holiday in Vancouver

when they visited their daughter, Mrs. Harry Correll and family.

Mrs. Anna Lewis of Sacramento, when she visited her sisters Elsie Calif. spent a holiday in this area Simmons and Christene Buchanan of Edmonton and Erick Kvarnberg and Emil and family of Buford. While here she attended the wedding of her niece Verna Kvarnberg. She is a member of Monitor Lodge No. 218 of her home city.

Linnea Lodge flew to Atlantic City, New Jersey where she attended the 26th Grand Lodge Convention on June 4th to 10th. While there she visited New York in the company of Margaret Eliasson (Alberta District delegate to the convention). They attended a concert at Radio City Music Hall, Rockefeller Centre and renewed some old acquaintances.

Mrs. E. E. Buchanan and Mrs. F. O. Simmons entertained in the latter's home at a miscellaneous shower for their niece, Verna Kvarnberg.

The Misses Isobel and Lilius Ferguson entertained at a miscellaneous shower in her honor.

LISTEN TO ...

THE SCANDINAVIAN HOUR

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ELK ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

Sunday, July 31st, 1966

Bring your families out for some picnicing, competing, swimming and just plain enjoying yourselves.

HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY

- ★ Rolling Pin throwing contest for the ladies
- ★ Short Program by each ethnic group
- ★ Softball Game for the men
- ★ Horseshoe pitching contest
- ★ Kiddies Races

STARTING TIMES

Program 1:00 p.m. — Competitions 2:45 p.m.

For particulars telephone:

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Afternoon and Evening
Appointments

THE ICELANDIC HERITAGE IN CANADA . . .

(continued from June issue)

Newspapers and Periodicals

The settlers were barely established at Gimli before they began their first venture in journalism. This was a handwritten paper which was issued several times in the winter of 1875-76. The first printed paper called Framfari (Progress) appeared in 1877, edited by the indefatigable Sigtryggur Jonasson.

The first Winnipeg paper, Leifur (named after Leif Ericsson), began publication in 1883. It was succeeded by Heimskringla (The World) founded in September 1886 and Logberg (The Tribune), January 1888. After these two Winnipeg weeklies had been published separately for over seventy years, they merged in 1959 to become Loberg-Heimskringla. In 1942 the English-language quarterly, The Icelandic Canadian, which has already been mentioned, was started by the Icelandic Canadian Club.

These and other newspapers and periodicals, many of which have disappeared, have carried or continue to carry a wealth of historical and biographical material, poetry and informative articles pertaining to the Icelandic community.

Icelanders' Day

The most important Icelandic celebration in Canada is Icelanders' Day, which was first held at Winnipeg on August 2, 1890. Its original purpose was to commemorate the granting of a constitution to Iceland in 1874, but in time it came to be an occasion for honouring the pioneer settlers in Canada.

The program of the first celebration in Winnipeg, with toasts to Iceland and to Canada, original poems, addresses, singing, dancing and sports, set a high standard of excellence. At that time about three thousand Icelanders were living in the city itself and visitors from Icelandic settlements in other parts of Manitoba and North Dakota helped swell the attendance. The celebration of 1890 was a landmark which attracted attention to the Icelandic people and also enhanced their own appreciation of the Icelandic heritage.

The general pattern set at that first Icelanders' Day has been followed each year in most Icelandic communities. The largest and most significant celebration continued to take place in Winnipeg until 1932 when it was moved to Gimli. Today the celebration is primarily a pleasurable outing, an occasion for a reunion among relatives and friends who may not have seen each other for a year. Yet the sacrifices and achievements of the pioneers are not forgotten.

Contributions of Icelanders to Canada

The spirit and determination of those early pioneers helped tide them over the first difficult years when they were struggling to become established on the wooded shores of Lake Winnipeg. By 1890 they had opened up the wheat country around Argyle in southwestern Manitoba, and the mixed farming communities on both sides of Lake Manitoba. Prairie and bushland in other parts of the West were claimed from the wilderness and made to yield a living. The great inland fisheries on the lakes of Manitoba had their beginnings and expanded under Icelandic direction.

In the last years of his life Sigtryggur Jonasson was looked upon as the "dean of the pioneers." As editor of Framfari, and later Logberg, he expressed, not only a loyalty to his inheritance, but an unbounded faith in Canada. In 1886 he was elected to the Manitoba legislature, one of the first of many Icelanders to make an import-

ant contribution in public life. As well known historian, Professor A. R. M. Lower, has pointed out, "The Icelanders rate high on any count — literary figures, public men, judges, professors have proceeded from this small compact group". In this article we have space to mention only a few examples of outstanding individuals of Icelandic origin.

One of the original pioneers and homesteaders in Saskatchewan is Judge W. J. Lindal who, in addition to his legal practice and service on the bench, has been prominent in community life and public affairs in provincial and national fields. "Although Icelandic by birth, he is passionately Canadian," the Winnipeg Free Press noted on his retirement from the bench in 1962. Recently, "the unflagging efforts towards Canadian unity" of Judge Lindal were recognized at a ceremony in St. Boniface, Manitoba.

Another distinguished member of the legal profession is the Hon. Mr. Joseph T. Thorson who was president of the Exchequer Court of Canada from 1942 until his retirement in 1964, at the age of seventy-five. Internationally recognized as an apostle of the modern concept of the rule of law, Mr. Justice Thorson was founding president of the International Commission of Jurists. Fluently bilingual, he has held public sittings of the Exchequer Court in French, as well as English, and has rendered judgments in both languages.

In 1965 it was noted that nineteen Canadians of Icelandic origin had been elected, at various times, to the Manitoba Legislative Assembly. In British Columbia Byron Ingemar Johnson was premier for several years. A number of Icelanders have also been elected to the House of Commons at Ottawa, including the former cabinet minister, William M. Benidickson. The first senator of Icelandic descent was Gunnar S. Thorvaldson, a former Winnipeg lawyer. John P. Sigvaldason was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Norway and Iceland in 1964.

Gimli, the core of Icelandic settlement, elected its first woman mayor in 1961. Mrs. Violet Einarson had been a councillor for four years before she won over two other candidates in the contest for chief magistrate.

A remarkable family of six brothers from Gimli have made notable contributions to public life in the field of economic agriculture. "Baldur Kristjanson is Executive Director of the Manitoba Economic Consultation Board and is highly regarded as a planner, economist, and administrator; Luther Burbank Kristjanson is Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Manitoba; Kristjan (Kris) Kristjanson is Director of Economics for the Manitoba Hydro, and Albert Kristjanson is Senior Rural Development Specialist with the Manitoba Department of Agriculture. A fifth brother, Larry, is Executive Assistant to the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board, and the sixth, Leo, is Research Director of the Institute for Regional Studies in Saskatoon." In a recent interview Leo Kristjanson expressed his opinion on education: "We've never felt a university education is a means to an end. To us education is an end in itself."

Many people have remarked on the zest for knowledge, keen interest in education and love of literature which the Icelanders brought with them to Canada. One of the earliest observers was Lord Dufferin, a former Governor General of Canada, who had himself visited Iceland and was very much interested in the Icelandic immigrants. In

1877 he visited Gimli and made this observation in his address to the settlers: "I have not entered a single hut or cottage in the settlement which did not contain, no matter how bare its walls, or scanty its furniture, a library of twenty or thirty volumes; and I am informed that there is scarcely a child amongst you who cannot read or write."

A little more than two months after their arrival at Gimli, the Icelandic immigrants had established a school. The people of New Iceland maintained their own schools until the municipal system was established there in 1887.

With their keen interest in education, it is not surprising that the Icelandic population has produced a large number of teachers and university professors. A distinguished example in the university field is the late Dr. Thorbergur Thorvaldson who was recognized as an international authority in cement chemistry. From 1919 until his retirement in 1946, Dr. Thorvaldson was head of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Saskatchewan.

In 1951 a chair of Icelandic language and literature was established at the University of Manitoba, the endowment having been raised by the Icelanders themselves.

Love of literature has been mentioned as a characteristic of the Icelandic people. A voluminous amount of poetry and prose, in the Icelandic language, has been written by Icelandic-born Canadians. Some of this literary output, the poetry in particular, is considered to be of high quality.

Icelandic was rarely used as the language of literary expression after the first generation. Among more recent writers is the late Laura Goodman Salverson, who depicted life in the early Icelandic settlements in Canada in novels such as The Viking Heart. For a later novel, The Dark Weaver and for her autobiography, The Confessions of an Immigrant's Daughter, Mrs. Salverson received Governor General awards. Her son, George Salverson, is well known as a writer of radio and television plays and documentaries.

A wealth of historical and biographical material on the Icelandic people in Canada has been published in both Icelandic and English. Among books written from an historical point of view in English are Judge W. J. Lindal's "The Saskatchewan Icelanders" and W. Kristjanson's "The Icelandic People in Manitoba."

The great Arctic explorer and scientist, Vilhjalmur Stefansson, was himself a prolific writer. "The Friendly Arctic" and several other books have their setting in the Canadian Arctic, while his autobiography, "Discovery", begins with a glimpse of the Icelandic immigration to Canada. Stefansson was born at Gimli in 1879. As a small child he was taken by his parents to the United States where he received his education, as well as in Iceland. But he spent many years exploring the Canadian Arctic and it was the scientific observations made there which won him international recognition. Stefansson died in 1962.

Although a small group the Icelanders have proved a dynamic force in Canadian life. "Hardworking, thrifty, intensely democratic, devoted to their literature and their culture, they constitute a remarkably vital and dynamic component of Canada's population, and the culturally diverse Canadian society that is still evolving."

Margaret Eliasson Attends Grand Lodge Convention In New Jersey

Representing Alberta District No. 18, Mrs. Margaret Eliasson was one of 43 delegates to attend the 26th Grand Lodge Convention held in Atlantic City, New Jersey on June 4 to 11th. Chalfonte-Haddon Hall Hotel housed the convention and delegates. It opened with a welcome banquet and dance with entertainment. The local convention committee sponsored a continental breakfast each morning as a treat to the visitors.

It was a busy week for our Alberta delegate. She was appointed Assistant Grand Master of Ceremonies for the convention, besides acting on three committees as follows: Chairman of Ritual Committee; member of Children's and Youth Committee and Constitution No. 2 Committee.

There was a ceremony of the presentation of a specially made Canadian flag as a gift from the two Canadian Districts, Alberta No. 18 and Central Canada No. 16; also a Swedish Flag Day on June 6th when the delegates from Sweden paid homage to their flag in a colorful ceremony.

Gifts to Grand Lodge were presented by delegates from Sweden's Districts. These were pieces taken from the Vasa ship which lies in dry dock in Stockholm harbor, and is being put through preservation processes after being dredged from the bottom of the ocean. These pieces of wood had been polished and made into suitable souvenirs. A special piece was a carving which was inscribed "Budkavlen". This was presented to the Grand Master to be passed on from one District to another until it makes the round and then will be kept by the Grand Master.

It was with regret that the delegates were informed of the death this spring of Dr. W. Borgstrom, the man who donated the Swedish bridal crown to the American and Canadian lodges.

New officers elected to the Grand Lodge were Grand Master, Bertil Winstrom of Wisconsin; Vice Grand

Master, Roy Nelson; Treasurer Astor Carlson (the first lady to hold this position within the Grand Lodge) and Secretary, Karl Kristenson.

Besides the business part of the convention other outstanding events were enjoyed. The Past District Masters' Club of New Jersey entertained all the Past and present District Masters at a social evening.

All the delegates were taken on a tour of Vasa Park at Budd Lake, New Jersey. This park covers 200 acres of land and consists of a club house, dining hall and swimming pool, also many private homes where members live the year round.

On Sunday morning there was a church service at the first Swedish church erected in the area, Old Swedes Church at Swedeboro. As very little remains of early colonial buildings of Swedish origin within the state of New Jersey, the Swedish population are especially grateful for the preservation of this church. It was built of logs in 1703. The present brick structure which encloses the original log building was dedicated in 1784 by the last pastor to be sent by the Swedish Government to America. During their tercentenary (300 years) of the State of New Jersey in 1964, District No. 6 of the Vasa Order of America participated in recognition of the part played by the Swedes in the early settlement that later became the State of New Jersey. As a contribution to the celebration a monument was placed in the cemetery of Old Swedes Church commemorating those early Swedish settlers. It was not a formal monument but one that typifies those early Swedes, rugged, strong and simple — a large boulder weighing 5 tons; and on it is a bronze marker with an inscription showing the year the church was built and "The Church at Raccoon" which was the name of the place at that time.

As a special closing celebration a farewell banquet and dance was held on Friday night.

ICELANDIC NOTES

Jon Howardson and his son Helgi were visitors in Edmonton last month at the home of Jon's brother, Barney Gudmundson. They also visited Fusi Arnfinson while in the city.

Helgi and Fusi attended schools together as youngsters, they had not seen each other since 1922. The visit was most memorable and many old memories were recalled.

Jon and Helgi are presently living in Vancouver, and are on an extended visit to old friends and relatives in Manitoba.

Mr. and Mrs. Cam Smith motored to visit friends at Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, while there they viewed the Hudson Hope Dam.

Icelandic Society extends sympathy to Mrs. Thora Orr on the death of her sister at Vancouver.

Mrs. Haraldar Seigmar Sr., widow of the late Rev. Doctor H. Seigmar and her son George accompanied her son Pastor Harald Seigmar, his wife and three daughters of Fort Vancouver, Wash. to Edmonton. Pas-

tor Seigmar was taking part in the opening ceremonies of the Lutheran Synod. While in Edmonton they were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Mitchell where they renewed acquaintances from the many parishes they have served.

Mrs. H. Seigman Sr. and George were house guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Summarlidason.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Archie Orr on the arrival of a daughter, Deborah Thora and Mr. and Mrs. Bryce Mitchell on the birth of their son, May 24, Todd, Alexander Palsson Mitchell.

Mrs. Pearl Valgardson will be the news correspondent for the month of July while Beulah Arason is away. Please phone your news to Pearl at 434-3007.

Do not forget the Scandinavian Annual Picnic at Elk Island Park, July 31st. Mrs. Viola Wallbank and Mr. and Mrs. Assi Eyford and family will be entertaining on behalf of the Icelandic Society.

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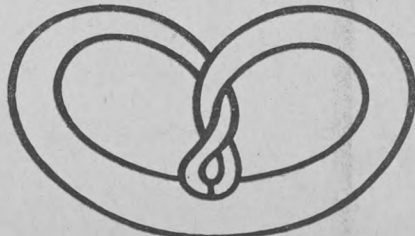
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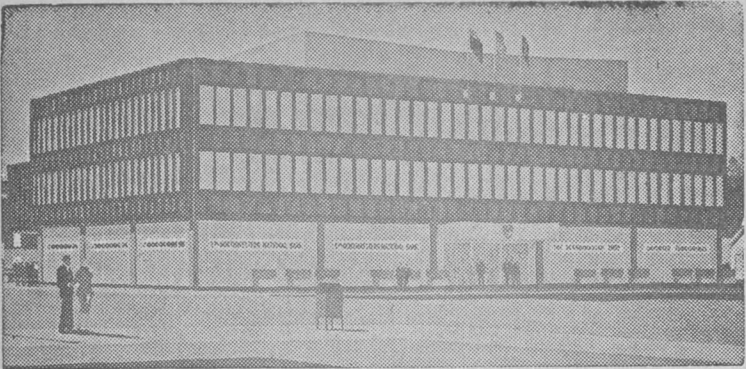
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